



MIAMIBEACH

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PRESS RELEASE

Cheerleaders Fundraise To Take On Nationals

Miami Beach, FL – They cheer, dance, flip and fly, but this talented group of cheerleaders also raise money every year in order to travel outside their hometown of Miami Beach for their competitions. For the past three years, the City of Miami Beach Parks and Recreation Department's "X-treme Cheerleaders" have held countless fundraising events such as car washes, yard sales, bake sales and drawings to raise enough money to allow them to travel to cities like Orlando, New York City, and Arlington. This year, the three-time national winning champs will be returning to Orlando on March 24 to compete in the US Spirit Nationals.

"I think it's important for these girls to raise money for their trip. It teaches them that money doesn't grow on trees, you have to work for it," said cheerleading coach and Parks and Recreation employee Tracey Austen. "It also creates a stronger team unity when we all have to work together to reach a goal." The squad has raised over \$9,000 to date in order to cover the expense of the trip.

For many of the girls who have been on the team since the inaugural year in 2000, this will be the last competition they attend. "I'm excited and sad because this is a big competition for us and it's also the last one for those of us that are seniors," said Candice Restani, a five-year veteran of the cheerleading program. However several of the girls will continue to show their support by coaching the younger participants on the Bolts and Lightning teams.

For more information on this and other exciting Parks and Recreation programs, please call 305-673-7730, or visit our website at www.miamibeachparks.com.

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